Sub B1 a1

cylindrical lens being attached directly to the light entrance side[s] of each of the optical fibers using a bead of glue in a manner to self center and align the cylindrical lens with respect to the light entrance sides independent of the holder; and

said linear array of light entrance sides of the optical fibers and said cylindrical lens glued thereon is aligned with the linear array of laser diodes for receiving radiation emitted therefrom and focussing said received radiation into said plurality of optical fibers.

Cancel claim 11.

Sub B1 a2

12. (amended) The laser diode module claim [11] 10, the invention further characterized in that said cylindrical lens is a length of optical fiber.

Cancel claim 13.

Sub B1

14. (amended) The laser diode module claim [13] 10, the invention further characterized in that[, in step (c) said gluing is by means of] said bead of glue is an epoxy adhesive.

a3

15. (amended) In a laser diode module wherein laser radiation from a linear laser diode array is coupled into a plurality of first optical fibers corresponding in number to the number of laser diodes in the laser diode array, each of the first optical fibers having a core diameter and a light entrance side, the invention characterized in that:

[the light entrance sides of] the first optical fibers are mounted on a holder and arranged [parallel to each other] so that the light entrance sides thereof form a linear array;

a second optical fiber having at least the length of the linear laser diode array, [is glued onto said linear array of] said second optical fiber being attached directly to the entrance side[s] of each of the first optical fibers using a bead of glue and centered thereon independent of the holder; and

said linear array of light entrance sides of the first optical fibers and said second optical fiber glued and centered thereon is aligned with the linear array of laser diodes for receiving radiation emitted therefrom and focussing said received radiation into said plurality of first optical fibers.

Please add new claims 19-21 as follows:

19. A light source for optically pumping a gain medium comprising:

a semiconductor laser structure having an array of emitter regions;

a plurality of optical fibers for carrying light emitted from the laser structure to a gain medium with the light entrance ends of the fibers being mounted on a holder and configured in a linear array spaced from the array of emitter regions of the laser structure; and

a single cylindrical lens for coupling the light from the emitter regions into the light